

A Full, Perfect, and Sufficient Sacrifice

10/27/2019 Andy Figueroa

By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. Hebrews 11:14 (ESV)

THIS is the opening lesson of our annual financial stewardship in-gathering for 2020. Veterans of Holy Trinity's annual rhythms know this as a season of education and encouragement. We set aside a few weeks at this time of the year to help us all to think more deliberately about our role in the offertory, a vital and proper act of worship, pleasing to God, and necessary for the work of Christ's church.

We don't actually conduct a campaign. We don't ask people to make a pledge of money. We won't call on you at your home or by phone. You'll hardly know when it's over. We DO ask every household that attends Holy Trinity to complete an estimated giving card. The non-binding estimates helps the vestry plan next year's budget. In our experience, we've found that a tally of estimated giving is meaningful in the aggregate, and that people are happy to not be pressured into committing to a pledge. Completing an estimated giving card also provide reasonable assurance that you have thoughtfully considered the matter. We'll put out a box next Sunday to begin collecting your cards. Truly, we do need you to give money. But, that's a topic for a future article.



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Giving in church isn't only about money; it's actually about worship. In our current sermon series, Fathers Cunningham and Joslyn are teaching us the proper understanding of the Eucharistic prayer one phrase at a time. That's where the theme for this season of stewardship comes from: the sermon on the 16th Sunday after Trinity, "A Full, Perfect, and Sufficient Sacrifice," that only God could make, through His Son, Jesus Christ. Although our worship and sacrifice can only be a shadow of that perfect sacrifice, it can and should be **sufficient**.

Fr. Cunningham taught us on that Sunday that, "all worship is sacrificial. Man was created to offer the sacrifice of love to God. Here's the rub, there is no sacrifice for man to offer God which God did not make and give to mankind. Without God's provision, we have nothing to sacrifice. This is the real point of Genesis 1-3: 'All things come of thee O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee.'"

ALL glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption; who made there (by his one oblation of himself once offered) a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; From the Eucharistic Canon, 1928 Book of Common Prayer, page 80.

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